

ON FALL'S TO-DO LIST: BARCLAYS CENTER {pages 06-09}

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NEW YORK
Tuesday, August 28, 2012

Police probe mysterious death of LES socialite

- Carlisle Brigham found dead on Orchard Street
- She knew former mayor; dad a former NYC budget director
- May have been accidental fall {page 02}



sports



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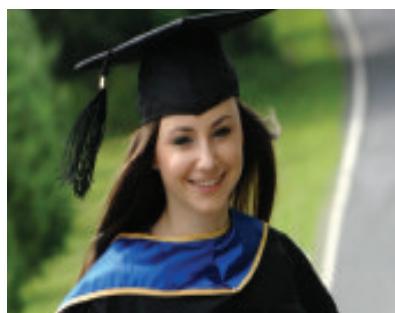
- Sharapova sweeps through to second round
- Everyone ignoring Stosur {page 27}

Queens Sen. hit with felony rap

It's just not summer if an NYC pol isn't in hot water {page 02}

Middle-aged angst awaits!

Jonathan Tropper has 'One Last Thing' to say {page 19}



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In the news

Hooters a hit on Coney Island?

Hooters not posh enough for snooty Park Slope? Then come to Coney Island! That's what Coney Island landlord Natan Zukai and his broker Joe Vitacco say, according to the Daily News. The two are trying to convince the chain restaurant to open an outpost on Surf Avenue. A paint store owner in Park Slope already rejected a proposal to open a Hooters in that neighborhood. 

In the news

**Escalators on LIRR in repair**

About half of the 19 escalators on the Long Island Rail Road were shut down for safety repairs earlier this month after an elderly woman died on an escalator at the Lindenhurst station earlier this year. The woman, 88, fell on the escalator and then was strangled to death when her clothing got stuck in the machine on March 13. 

Socialite found dead in LES mystery case

Cops are investigating how a 29-year-old woman ended up dead in a Lower East Side stairwell yesterday.

Police said they responded to a 911 call around 11 a.m. yesterday on Orchard Street and found Carlisle Brigham,



► Brigham

29, bleeding heavily with a large cut on her neck.

She was pronounced dead at Beth Israel Hospital. Police have yet to conclude if the death was accidental.

Brigham reportedly worked at the American Museum of Natural History and was married last year. Her nuptials were featured in The New York Times, which identified her as a graduate of the University of

Mary Washington.

The Wall Street Journal reported that she was estranged from her husband, Anthony Champalimaud. NBC reported that he is in England.

Her father, according to the Times, was chairman of the New York City Public Development Corporation and later the city's budget director.

And former New York City mayor Ed Koch counts as a

family friend.

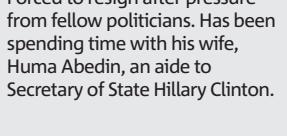
"She was absolutely extraordinarily beautiful," Koch told the Daily News. "It just shook me as if I were kicked by a horse."

Brigham was apparently sharing her apartment while estranged from her spouse; her roommate told officials that he spoke to her before her death and she sounded distraught.



Felony charges for Queens pol

- State Sen. Shirley Huntley accused of embezzling taxpayer money from nonprofit she ran
- Arrest comes just days after Brooklyn assemblyman censured for groping two young female interns
- These two are only the latest for New York's long line of scandal-scarred politicians

The pol	Accused of doing	The fallout	What made it so sleazy
State Senator Shirley Huntley Metro's ranking:  02046 Accused of taking money meant for parents and kids.	Allegedly took money meant for a nonprofit she created and funneled it to an aide and her niece.	Arrested and charged with multiple felonies, she could face up to four years in jail if convicted.	Huntley allegedly pocketed taxpayer money meant to help teach parents about the public school system.
Brooklyn Assemblyman Vito Lopez Metro's ranking:  02046 While the alleged conduct is deplorable, he did not funnel away taxpayer money or assault anyone, like other pols.	Was accused of sexual harassment in accusations an Assembly committee found credible.	Fellow politicians, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo, called on him to resign immediately. He was removed as chairman of the Assembly's Housing Committee.	Lopez allegedly groped young staffers, including "pervasive, unwelcome verbal conduct" and put his hand up one woman's leg, according to a letter from Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.
Former Governor Eliot Spitzer Metro's ranking:  02046 Spitzer not only broke the law — traveling across state lines to do so — he also broke his family's trust.	Was implicated in a prostitution ring a year after taking office as governor in 2007.	Resigned as governor, took time off to spend with his wife, but two years later was working as a television host. After his show "In The Arena" was canceled, he now writes op-eds and occasionally lectures.	Spitzer was known as the "Sheriff of Wall Street" and pursued others for corruption. So his outing as "Client 9" and the sleazy details that accompanied it took a particularly ironic toll.
Former Senate Majority Leader Pedro Espada Jr. Metro's ranking:  02046 Convicted of taking lots of cash meant to help people and using it to buy lobster instead.	Convicted of embezzling about \$448,000 from a nonprofit health-care network he ran and using the cash for lavish dinners and spa treatments.	Reportedly will face a retrial on counts that the jury failed to agree on, but a federal jury found him guilty on four counts of theft.	Taking hundreds of thousands meant for a nonprofit and using it to buy pricey dinners, including lobster.
Former State Sen. Hiram Monserrate Metro's ranking:  02046 Pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$100K in city funds for his campaign. Also accused of violently slashing his girlfriend.	He stole money meant for community services. He was also convicted of misdemeanor assault against his girlfriend. He faces about two years in prison when he is sentenced in September.		Took money that was meant for the community and faked expense reports to collect it instead. Also accused of slashing his girlfriend in the face, a charge he denied.
Former Representative Anthony Weiner Metro's ranking:  02046 He did not hurt taxpayers directly and wife appears to have forgiven him.	Resigned in June 2011 after admitting he sent lewd photos of himself to various women.		Tweeting photos of something synonymous with his last name and denying it while pretending to be outraged at the very suggestion.

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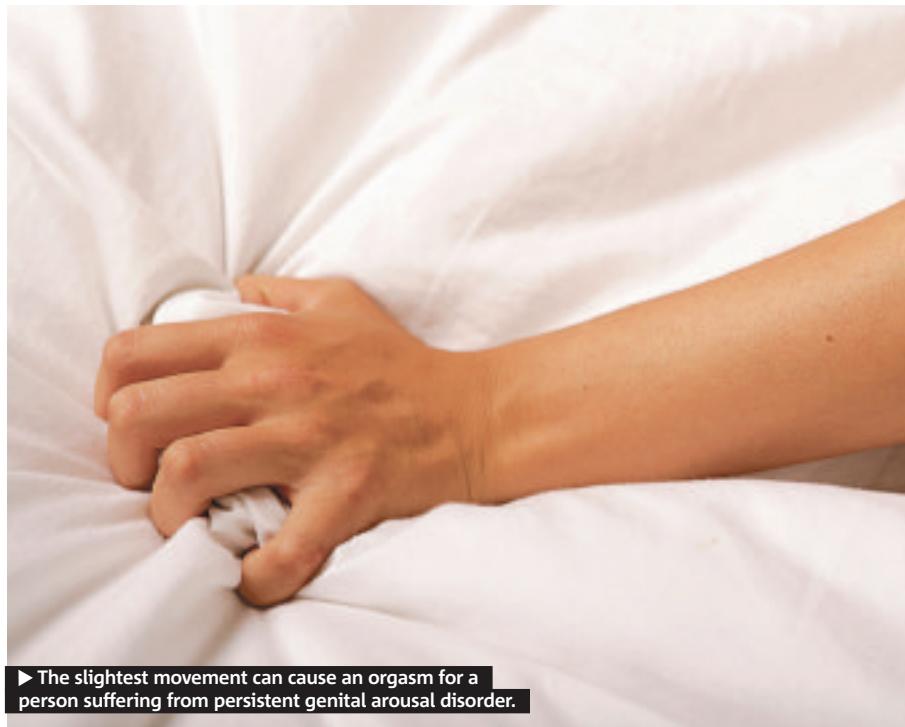


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04

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2012

THINKSTOCK



► The slightest movement can cause an orgasm for a person suffering from persistent genital arousal disorder.

NJ woman suffers from spontaneous orgasm condition

► Never mind the ecstasy: It's all agony for woman who suffers from rare orgasming disorder ► Cannot prevent herself from climaxing up to 100 times daily

Kim Ramsey of Montclair, N.J., doesn't have any problem reaching the "big O" — and that's the problem.

Ramsey suffers from a rare condition that causes her to endure multiple orgasms at any given time — sometimes up to 100 per day. According to her, the slightest movement could set off a string of orgasms that leave her in "excruciating" pain.

"Other women wonder how to have an orgasm — I wonder how to stop mine," Ramsey told The Sun.

Her condition, known as persistent genital arousal disorder, was apparently caused by cysts she developed on her spine after she fell down a flight of stairs 10 years ago.

The condition first emerged in 2008 when Ramsey had orgasms for four days straight after having sex with a new boyfriend.

"I even tried sitting on frozen peas," she said.

Yes, it does actually exist

Persistent genital arousal disorder is a documented medical condition and has been compared to restless leg syndrome.

It was first diagnosed in 2001, and the sensations of arousal produced are often so intense they are painful.

Antidepressants and gels have been used to treat the condition.

● METRO/CB

"Both women and men just don't seem to get it — they seem to think it's a great thing and, believe me, it's really not."

RAMSEY

Ramsey said her disorder affects her daily life, as she can't predict when something will set off a string of uncontrollable orgasms. It's even happened to her in public.

"I was traveling home on the train, and it was a bit of a bumpy ride," she told the Daily Mail. "Every jerk of the train or vibration made me more aroused, and it was a 40-minute journey, so there was nothing I could do. I just had to bite my lip and sit on my hands and hope no one noticed."

Ramsey plans to see a London-based expert who specializes in treating persistent genital arousal disorder.

"Both women and men just don't seem to get it — they seem to think it's a great thing and, believe me, it's really not," she said.

 **CASSANDRA GARRISON**
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Woman dragged by truck in West Village accident

In a horrific traffic accident, a woman was dragged to her death after getting caught in the rear wheels of a flatbed truck yesterday morning in the West Village.

According to police, the 58-year-old woman, whose identity has not yet been released, was on a foot scooter when she collided with a truck making a right turn onto Sixth Avenue from West Houston Street just before 9 a.m. yesterday.

After she was caught between the truck's rear wheels, she was dragged north to Minetta Lane, until the driver realized he had struck her. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police are continuing their investigation but say no criminality is suspected.

State Sen. Daniel Squadron used the horrific accident as a platform to tout a bill that would crack down on drivers



► The intersection of Sixth Avenue and West Houston Street where the fatal accident occurred.

who hit cyclists or pedestrians.

Together with his co-sponsor, Assemblyman Brian Kavanagh, Squadron said officers, under the present law, cannot cite drivers for traffic violations unless the officer witnessed the crash.

Their proposed bill would make it easier for police to enforce the law if the officer has reasonable cause to believe

the driver committed a violation.

"Of course today's tragedy is unique and we don't know if any of these critical improvements would have prevented it," Squadron said yesterday. "But we must do everything in our power to prevent the next one."

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Mirra is a 3-year-old domestic shorthair who is looking for a loving home of her own. This pretty girl has a sensitive side; she was not exposed to human interaction very often before she came to the ASPCA, so she is still learning to trust people. Reaching toward her too quickly will frighten her, so she much prefers to approach you first. She has a soft spot for yummy treats though, so if you offer her some she will be more accepting of petting and attention. This process is helping her overcome her fears. Mirra will likely always be shy, but she absolutely adores other cats. Living with a fellow friendly feline will bring her out of her shell. A quiet household with an experienced cat owner would be best for Mirra. To adopt Mirra or any other pet, stop by the ASPCA headquarters at 424 E. 92nd St., visit www.adoptaspca.org or call 212-876-7700, ext. 4120.

LIRR worker dies on job

QUEENS VILLAGE. An LIRR worker died yesterday morning after accidentally touching the dangerous third rail on the tracks, according to a report in the New York Post.

The worker was found by other LIRR track workers collapsed and unconscious on the LIRR tracks near Jamaica Avenue and 225th Street in Queens Village at around 10:15 a.m.

He had gone into cardiac arrest.

He was rushed to Long Island Jewish Hospital but was pronounced dead. A co-worker who had tried to help him was also treated at the hospital as a precaution.

The third rail is electrified on the LIRR tracks and in the New York City subway system. • METRO/CB

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special section

A sneak peek at **BARCLAYS CENTER**



► An artist's rendering of the exterior of the Barclays Center, which is scheduled to open Sept. 28.

Upcoming events



Some of the hottest tickets in New York

Barclays Center already has more than 200 events locked down for the coming year, which kicks off with a sold-out Jay-Z concert on Sept. 28. The upcoming event schedule is loaded with some of the hottest tickets in town:

September: Jay-Z

► **October:** Islanders vs.

► Devils (NHL

preseason), Jay-Z, the Harlem Globetrotters, Barbra Streisand, World Championship Boxing, John Legend and Journey

November: Inaugural

► Barclays Center Classic men's college basketball tournament, Justin Bieber, The Who, Bob Dylan and Disney on Ice. Team USA's top performing gymnasts will also take the stage.

December: Neil Young and Andrea Bocelli

► METRO/MH

► You've been hearing about it for months, but what do you really know about Barclays Center? ► Check out what Brooklyn's premier event venue is bringing to the borough

After almost a decade in the making, the much-anticipated Barclays Center will be opening its doors on Sept. 28.

Actually Jay-Z will be opening the doors with the first of an eight-concert series at Barclays, which sits at the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues in downtown Brooklyn.

The completion of the 675,000-square-foot arena has been a long time coming for developer Bruce Ratner, who overcame one hurdle after another on the long road to Barclays Center.

"There were a lot of challenges along the way," Brett Yormark, CEO of Barclays Center and the Brooklyn Nets, told Metro. "The economy, ongoing litigation that existed here in Brooklyn for the project, the NBA lockout and an eroding fan base in New Jersey all worked against us."

"But at the end of the day, we overcame," he said. "It was Bruce Ratner's vision that kept us all going. He made a big bet on Brooklyn, and I'm glad to see it coming to fruition."

The \$1 billion arena, which Yormark describes as "urban chic," was designed specifically with the borough of Brooklyn



Barclays by the numbers

- Spans 675,000 square feet at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues in downtown Brooklyn
- Offers approximately 18,200 seats for basketball games and up to 19,000 seats for concerts
- Accessible by 11 subway lines, the Long Island Railroad and 11 bus lines
- Offers 100 luxury suites, four bars/lounges, three clubs and the 40/40 Club and restaurant

► Touts 360-degree LED marquee

The luxe side of Barclays

Premium seating is a given when it comes to luxury suites, but Barclays Center is taking it to a whole new level. Check

550K Price per season — with a three-year minimum — for a luxury suite inside The Vault.

in mind.

"It was really important to the design concept that this building had a very strong link with the context," said arena developer Chris Sharples of SHoP Architects.

So what does a Brooklyn-inspired arena look like? According to Sharples, Barclays is unlike other major arenas in that it isn't closed off by seating. On the contrary, the design concept lends itself to a sense of transparency to the community. In fact, the street-level panels of the building are actually wrapped in glass, creating the illusion that the sidewalk and street are extended into the building.

"It's really unique," Sharples added. "You really get a sense of the bowl before you even enter the building."

Unlike other arenas, the scoreboard is visible from the main entrance.

The exterior also features a huge canopy that extends 80 feet out and 35 feet high. Within it is a 3,000-square-foot oculus that will serve as a digital marquee.

MARIANNE HAYES
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Barclays Center a boost to local Brooklyn economy

- Forthcoming arrival of Barclays Center is pumping economic fuel into Brooklyn
- Popular downtown neighborhoods now feeling surge
- Barclays Center creates about 2,000 new in-house jobs, as well

The completion of the much anticipated Barclays Center caps off a revival of sorts for downtown Brooklyn, which was once a commercially barren neighborhood.

New York City's newest event venue, which will headline big-name musical acts and sporting events come Sept. 28, is igniting an economic surge that's spilling over into areas such as Prospect Heights, Clinton Hill and Crown Heights.

"Downtown Brooklyn has exploded," said Pamela Young, senior associate at The Corcoran Group, who is seeing a higher demand for residential sales in the area. "People are excited about what's happening near Barclays, and the commercial viability of the arena is bringing awareness to some great neighborhoods."

Corcoran vice president associate broker (and Brooklyn resident) Paul Zumoff added that rental vacancies near the arena have increased by about 15 to 25 percent since 2010, a huge jump.

"Barclays is going to join cultural institutions like BAM and Prospect Park in adding value to the area."

Quoted

"Barclays is going to join cultural institutions like BAM and Prospect Park in adding value to the area."

ZUMOFF

Prospect Park in adding value to the area," said Zumoff.

The housing market isn't the only sector seeing a rise in activity. New restaurants, bars and other small businesses are opening in droves throughout downtown Brooklyn — which Borough President Marty Markowitz anticipates will flourish thanks to the venue's regular visitors.

"The arena will create thousands of good-paying jobs, with priority placement for residents living in surrounding neighborhoods and NYCHA housing close to the complex," said Markowitz.

MARIANNE HAYES
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► Drink up! Bar and restaurant owners in downtown Brooklyn say they expect Barclays will bring in new customers.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Residents weigh in

Downtown Brooklyn residents are in the heart of the action. What's their take on Barclays Center?

"As a resident, I'm looking forward to walking one block to see my favorite artist perform without worrying about parking, and transportation, and getting home quickly. To me, that's enormous."

"Live sports bring such an infectious energy and camaraderie. I think it's great that more people will venture to Brooklyn to see what it has to offer, enjoying its nightlife, restaurants, shops, etc. I also like that it's something completely different from the standard activities in Brooklyn."

LEIGH BAKER, 25

A potential business boom

Local businesses are gearing up for the huge crowds that the arena will attract to the neighborhood.

"We're hoping for an uptick in business," said Rose Hermann, co-owner of Stonehome Wine Bar in Ft. Greene. "Our proximity to BAM is crucial to us, and we're hoping that the arena will have a similar effect. Barclays will draw people from all backgrounds who, hopefully, will venture out into our community and explore it."

"We're so excited to be in

this Brooklyn neighborhood and are definitely anticipating more customer traffic in the store as result of the arena," said Laura Brainer, of apparel store Atrium NYC.

"We're already busy, but now we're expecting to be busy seven days a week," said Adam Lyons, bar manager of Buffalo Wild Wings, located right across Atlantic Avenue from Barclays Center. "We're in the process of getting a larger staff, and we're going to add a lot of servers, bartenders, greeters and cashiers."

Job creation at Barclays

According to Barclays Center developer Forest City Ratner, the arena will create about 2,000 in-house jobs.

► 1,000 positions are being filled for security, guest services, event services, box office and facility services.

► About 900 food and beverage positions are being filled within the arena.



► Rose Hermann, a co-owner of Stonehome Wine Bar in Ft. Greene, said she hopes Barclays will attract hungry crowds.



Root, root, root for the home team

► Barclays Center is just latest addition to Brooklyn's rich sporting history ► It's far more than the Dodgers

When it comes to Brooklyn sports, most minds jump immediately to the beloved Dodgers, who had Brooklynites crying in the streets when they left the borough behind for Los Angeles in 1957.

Now, after 55 years, Barclays Center is bringing back home games with the Brooklyn Nets. But there's more to the borough's sporting past than just the Dodgers.

Brooklyn's original baseball royalty was a ballclub called the Atlantics, which formed in 1855. The team dominated the early baseball circuit and played home games at the once-grand Capitoline Grounds. The stadium was de-

55

Number of years since the Dodgers left Brooklyn (1957), leaving the borough without a professional sports franchise.

molished in 1880. A Bed-Stuy housing development now stands in its place.

In the late 1870s, horse racing joined baseball as one of Brooklyn's most treasured sports.

"Horse racing was extremely popular," said Brooklyn Borough Historian Ron

Schweiger.

There were three major tracks in Brooklyn, which brought about a far-reaching cultural phenomenon that quickly spread throughout the country. Unfortunately, the horse-racing era also brought booze and gambling to Brooklyn, prompting legislators to shut down the tracks in 1910.

Two reopened for auto racing soon after, which was also wildly popular.

In fact, Louis Chevrolet used to grace the Sheepshead Bay Speedway.

 **MARIANNE HAYES**
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Barclays Center reaches out to its neighbors

Barclays Center and Long Island University Brooklyn, located only three blocks apart, are joining forces.

"Our goal is to be not only accessible to the community, but also engaged in the community," said Brett Yormark, CEO of Barclays Center and the Brooklyn Nets.

The partnership will bring LIU Brooklyn's men's basket-

ball team, the Blackbirds, to Barclays to play a minimum of four home games per season. The team also is participating in the Barclays Center Classic and Brooklyn Hoops Holiday Invitational.

The alliance has an educa-

tional component as well. Students in the university's sports journalism/management classes will have access to guest lectures from Barclays Center and Nets basketball executives. At least five LIU students per

year are slated to receive internships with either Barclays Center or the Nets.

"Our collaboration will provide far-reaching opportunities not only for our students and campus community, but for our

neighboring communities as well," said LIU Brooklyn Provost Gayle Stevens Haynes.

LIU Brooklyn will hold commencement ceremonies at Barclays Center as well.

● METRO/MH

Nets you need to know

► It's more than just Kris Humphries and Jay-Z: A breakdown of who's who on Brooklyn's home team ► The Nets are bringing home games back to BK ► Check out the all-stars making waves both on and off the court

1**Deron Williams**

The starting point guard for the Brooklyn Nets, superstar Williams is a force to be reckoned with. "D-Will" is a two-time Olympic gold medalist who will be kicking off his third season with the Nets this year. Drafted by the Utah Jazz in 2005, Williams shattered records as the highest NBA draft pick in the history of the University of Illinois. He made history again in March 2012 when he scored 57 points in one game against the Charlotte Bobcats, both a personal career-high and Nets franchise-high.

5**Mikhail Prokhorov**

Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov turned heads in 2010 when he bought 80 percent of the Nets franchise (and 45 percent of the arena) in a \$223 million deal. The team's majority owner, who could pass for a player at 6 feet 8 inches, is a skilled businessman who recently ran in Russia's 2012 presidential race. He is known for his sense of humor and for taking jabs at his rivals – he made headlines when he referred to Knicks owner James Dolan as "that little man" in a New York Magazine piece.

2**Kris Humphries**

Perhaps most famous for his 72-day marriage to Kim Kardashian, Humphries is no slouch on the basketball court either. The Nets power forward hails from the University of Minnesota, where he caught the attention of the NBA after playing only one season. Going pro at 19, Humphries was picked up by the Utah Jazz in 2004 before going on to play for the Toronto Raptors and the Dallas Mavericks.

6**Joe Johnson**

After spending seven seasons with the Atlanta Hawks, the newly acquired Johnson is kicking off his debut season with the Nets this fall. Signing the shooting guard sparked immediate talk of the potential success the trade could mean for the Nets. Johnson has gone on record saying his eyes are on the NBA championship ring. In the meantime, fans wait with bated breath to see if he walks the walk in Brooklyn.

3**Jay-Z**

Arguably the centerpiece of the Nets' rebranding, Jay-Z has been instrumental in revitalizing the team's image. Thanks to the hip-hop superstar, who only owns one-fifteenth of 1 percent of the Nets, the franchise is earning a hipper, younger reputation than it had in New Jersey. From designing the team's new logo and uniforms to inspiring luxury suites in the arena, Jay-Z is leaving his mark on the new Nets.

7**Bruce Ratner**

When it comes to the Nets, minority owner Ratner wears many hats. Serving as Barclays Center's developer and visionary, Ratner has been the driving force in seeing the \$1 billion project come to fruition. To do so, he sold majority ownership of the Nets franchise to Russian billionaire and businessman Prokhorov back in 2010. Overcoming years of hurdles and delays in development, Ratner is the man behind the new arena.

4**David Diamante**

You may not know the name, but chances are, you know the voice. When he isn't announcing for professional boxing, Diamante is the voice of the Nets. "The man with the golden voice," Diamante also hosts a national sports highlights show on NBC Sports Network called "The 'Lights.' The baritone is a self-described "Brooklyn guy" who's known for his trademark dreadlocks and eclectic style. Fans can hear his booming voice at Barclays Center or around the corner at Diamante's Brooklyn Cigar Lounge.

8**Brook Lopez**

For the Nets' Lopez, basketball seems to run in the family. His twin brother, Robin Lopez, plays for the New Orleans Hornets. Drafted by the Nets in 2008, the 7-foot center is coming off a tough season where he only played five games because of injuries. The Nets recently re-signed Lopez, who is healed and ready to hit the court for the 2012-13 season. The anticipation of seeing him back in action is palpable, especially alongside stars like Johnson and Williams.

Something for everyone

► Arena features 100 high-end luxury suites, including eleven designed by Jay-Z himself ► That said, you don't have to be rich to enjoy Barclays

Design aesthetics aside, Barclays Center has serious offerings when it comes to premium seating. The arena will feature 100 luxury suites, including eleven ultra-elite Vault suites designed by Jay-Z. Access to The Vault comes with premium event-level seating along with all the glitz and swagger you'd expect from the hip-hop mogul slash partial Nets owner (Jay-Z owns a small stake in the Nets franchise). The uber-luxurious Vault touts 2,400 square feet of common space and

access to the Armand de Brignac Champagne Bar, among other A-list amenities. Membership comes with a \$550,000 price tag.

Downsized luxury offerings include the Brownstone Suites (16 seats) and Loft Suites (10 seats), which were marketed to mid-sized businesses. Lower-level box seats are also available starting at \$150 per Nets game and include unlimited food, access to Jay-Z's own 40/40 Club and personal TV monitors.

Brooklyn-born Jay-Z must have had the same thought in mind when he announced deeply discounted tickets for his September gigs at Barclays Center. ■ METRO/MH

2,000

Tickets available for Nets home games that will be priced at \$15 and less.

"We want to treat every customer as a celebrity, whether you're spending \$15 or \$1,500."
YORMARK



Rain from Isaac to help wheat, but not corn or soy

The drought-parched Midwest farm belt could get up to 5 inches of rain from Tropical Storm Isaac, but it would be a mixed blessing to farmers, as the moisture will be too late



for corn and soybeans but just in time for wheat planting next month.

Rain could be of marginal help to soybeans that were planted late in the season, but not to the bulk of the crop that is fast approaching harvest due to early planting this year.

For farmers gearing up to plant the winter wheat crop, rain could boost soil moisture and get the crop in the world's top wheat exporter off to a good start.

REUTERS

Romney's convention limps into motion

Forget the loud music, cheering crowds and funny hats. Instead of opening with a bang as originally planned, Mitt Romney's Republican convention started with a whimper on Monday as party leaders staged a low-key session while Tropical Storm Isaac churned through the Gulf of Mexico.

The tone was deliberately subdued after Isaac led Republicans to scrap most of their first day's schedule in Tampa, complicating plans to showcase Romney to voters as the presidential candidate heads into a 10-week sprint to his Nov. 6 election battle against Democratic President Barack Obama. **REUTERS**

Gulf Coast starts to flee from Isaac path



Tropical Storm Isaac closed in on the U.S. Gulf of Mexico coast yesterday, triggering some mandatory evacuation orders and disrupting U.S. offshore oil production as it threatened to make landfall between Florida and Louisiana as a full-blown hurricane.

The large, slow-moving storm swiped south Florida on Sunday before moving into warm Gulf waters. It was expected to gain hurricane force

1,800

Hurricane Katrina swept across New Orleans on August 29, 2005, killing more than 1,800 people and causing billions of dollars of damage along the coast.

and could reach land tonight or early tomorrow, which marks the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina seven years ago.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center warned coastal residents of potentially life-threatening flooding, or storm surge, from Isaac totaling up to 12 feet (3.6 meters) in some areas.

"The weather will start going downhill overnight tonight on the northern Gulf Coast," NHC director Rick Knabb told reporters on a conference call. "Wherever it is people are going to be during the storm, they need to get there tonight."

"It is quite ironic that we have a hurricane threatening us on the seventh anniversary of Katrina," New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu told a news conference. **REUTERS**

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12

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In the news**Troops punished over video of Koran burning**

The U.S. military said yesterday it was disciplining U.S. troops over two incidents that provoked outrage in Afghanistan early this year, one involving a video depicting Marines urinating on corpses and another over burned copies of the Koran. But the administrative punishments fell short of criminal prosecution, and it was unclear whether they would satisfy Afghan demands for justice. Afghan President Hamid Karzai branded the Marine's actions in the video as "inhuman," and he initially called for a public trial for the soldiers over the Koran incident. The military did not disclose precise punishments for the troops, but Army and Marine Corps spokesmen said they fell into a category that includes administrative sanctions, like a reduction in rank or forfeiture of pay. **REUTERS**



► A man in Seoul walks past a Samsung sign.

Apple seeks to stop US sales of eight Samsung products

Apple Inc., which won more than \$1 billion after a jury found Samsung Electronics Co. infringed six of seven patents for its mobile devices, sought a ban on eight models of the South Korean company's smartphones, including its Galaxy S devices. Apple, in a court filing, urged U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh, who presided over the four-week trial in San Jose, California, to ban the sales of the Galaxy S 4G, S2 AT&T, S2 Skyrocket, S2 T-Mobile, S2 Epic 4G, S Showcase, the Droid Charge and the Prevail. **BLOOMBERG**

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'American Taliban' sues for right to daily prayer

- Ind. native Lindh jailed in 2002
- Wants to resume group prayers

John Walker Lindh, the so-called "American Taliban" captured in Afghanistan and imprisoned in the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, testified in federal court yesterday that a ban on group prayer for Muslim prisoners was absurd.

Lindh joined a complaint filed by two other Muslim prisoners challenging a ban on daily group prayers at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind., where he has been incarcerated since 2002. He was captured in Afghanistan during the fighting after the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

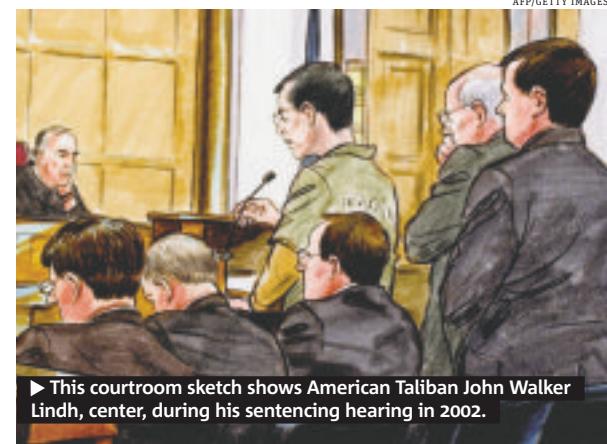
The bearded Lindh, 31, who is serving for fighting with the Taliban in Afghanistan, wore

ankle chains in the courtroom yesterday and his hands and arms were tightly bound as he was led out after two hours of testimony.

With the help of a glossary for court officials, Lindh guided the court through a series of lessons on Muslim prayer traditions.

The prison warden halted daily group prayers in 2009 and allowed them only on the holy day of Friday after some incidents among the Muslim prisoners.

Lindh said group prayers should be allowed because inmates in the facility are free to congregate for other reasons most of the day. He testified that there are no conversations or sermons during the prayer



► This courtroom sketch shows American Taliban John Walker Lindh, center, during his sentencing hearing in 2002.

sessions and that attendees do not speak for most periods of the prayer service, which is led by an imam.

"If something is wrong you oppose it. If something is right you praise it," Lindh said. **REUTERS**

"Muslims can't be neutral. That is the course I am taking."

Lindh's parents were in the courtroom, according to ACLU of Indiana attorney Ken Falk, who is representing Lindh.

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Teens who smoke pot can damage memory, intelligence — report

Teenagers who become hooked on cannabis before they reach 18 may be causing lasting damage to their intelligence, memory and attention, according to the results of a large, long-term study published yesterday.

Researchers from Britain and the United States found that persistent and dependent use of cannabis before the age of 18 may have a so-called neurotoxic effect, but heavy pot use after 18 appears to be less damaging to the brain.

Terrie Moffitt, a psychology and neuroscience professor at King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry, said the scope and length of the study, which involved more than 1,000 people followed up over 40 years, gave its findings added weight.

"It's such a special study that I'm fairly confident cannabis is safe for over-18 brains, but risky for under-18 brains," she said.

Before the age of 18, the brain is still being organized and remodeled to become more efficient and may be more vulnerable to damage from drugs, she added.

Moffitt worked with



GETTY IMAGES

18

Before the age of 18, the brain is still being organized and remodeled to become more efficient and may be more vulnerable to damage from drugs.

Madeleine Meier, a post-doctoral researcher at Duke University in the United States, to analyze data on 1,037 New Zealanders who took part in the study. About 96 percent of the original participants stuck with the study from 1972 to today, she said.

At age 38, all participants were given a battery of psychological tests to assess their memory, processing speed, reasoning and visual processing.

Those who had used pot persistently as teens scored significantly worse in most of the tests. Friends and relatives regularly interviewed as part of the study were more likely to report that the heavy cannabis users had attention and memory problems such as losing focus and forgetting to do tasks.

REUTERS

Fat-bellied people at higher risk than those who are obese

Normal-weight people with fat bellies have a higher risk of death than the obese, according to data presented at the European Society of Cardiology conference in Munich today.

People with a normal body mass index and "central obesity," as defined by a high waist-to-hip ratio, had the greatest risk of cardiovascular-related death and the highest death risk overall, researchers said today in a statement. The risk of cardiovascular death was 2.75 times higher and the risk of death from all causes was 2.08 times higher compared with subjects with



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normal BMI and a normal waist-to-hip ratio.

"We knew from previous research that central obesity is bad, but what is new in this research is that the distribution of the fat is very important, even in people with a normal weight,"

Francisco Lopez-Jimenez, senior author of the study and a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., said in the statement. "This group has the highest death rate, even higher than those who are considered obese based on BMI."

BLOOMBERG

Modifications led to Reno air show crash that killed 11

Extensive modifications to a racing airplane — nearly all of them undocumented — led to mechanical failure that probably caused the deadly crash at a Reno air show last year, U.S. transportation officials ruled yesterday.

The Galloping Ghost, a highly modified, World War II-era P-51 Mustang fighter plane, lost control while traveling at 445 knots and crashed into the stands on Sept. 16, 2011, killing the pilot and 10 spectators. Another 64 people were injured, and 16 of those were seriously injured.

REUTERS

Americans admire, but do not like, rich people says Pew survey

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► You might want to be them, but you don't have to like them.

Americans admire the rich. They just don't like them very much.

A Pew Research Center survey shows an overwhelming majority of people have high regard for those they consider wealthy, with almost half saying they're smarter and harder workers. At the same time, a majority says the wealthy are greedy and pay too little in taxes. One-third say they're dishonest.

More than six in 10 Americans say the Republican Party, which is holding its national convention this week, favors the wealthy, according to the poll released yesterday.

The findings underscore the complicated feelings Americans have about wealth, as well as a troubling political issue for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney,

who has an estimated wealth of \$250 million.

"There's some good news in here [for Romney]," Kim Parker, the study's author and a senior researcher with the Washington-based Pew Social & Demographic Trends Project, said. "Americans do admire wealthy people who worked hard. But a potential problem is that people said his policies would benefit wealthy people more than the middle-class or lower-income people."

70%

More than 70 percent of Americans say Romney's policies would help the wealthy more than anyone else.

Republicans and Democrats have different views of the rich, said Jacob S. Hacker, director of the Institution for Social and Policy Studies at Yale University. "There's a pretty stark partisan divide," he said.

Americans say a \$150,000 annual salary would be enough to make a four-person family rich, the poll found. People surveyed in the Northeast and suburban communities put the amount at \$200,000, while those questioned in rural areas say a family making more than \$125,000 could be considered wealthy.

Nationwide, the median household income is \$51,914.

The poll of 2,508 adults, conducted July 16-26, has a 2.8 percent margin of error.

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us



Tom Cruise kept the diamonds coming

The feed ...

► Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

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@rustyrockets (Russell Brand)
I deny all hurtful rumours that I have invented bejeweled hover-shoes. Lawyers tell me they are fashionable.

@SandraBernhard
camping is fine as long as someone else does all the work

@jimmyfallon
More magazines are photo-shopping models to make them look heavier. In response the models said, "Or you could just let us eat."



► Rubber ball, or anniversary ruby?

Rosie O'Donnell has secretly wed

Congratulations are in order for **Rosie O'Donnell**, who quietly wed girlfriend **Michelle Rounds** on June 9 in a private ceremony in New York before Rounds underwent surgery for

desmoids tumors, a rare disease that can be life-threatening.

O'Donnell, who suffered a heart attack last week, took to her blog to share the happy news in her signature blend of poetry, prose and vodka:

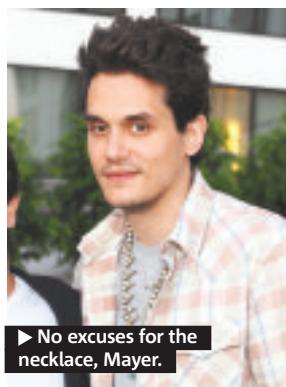
*"thankful for the love and support
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during these trying times
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Talking points

John Mayer sporting some breakup hair

Looks like **John Mayer** really was in the mood for some major change. After breaking up with **Katy Perry** after a few weeks of dating, the singer unveiled a new, shorter haircut, ditching the curly locks he'd been sporting for a while, according to Us Weekly. And



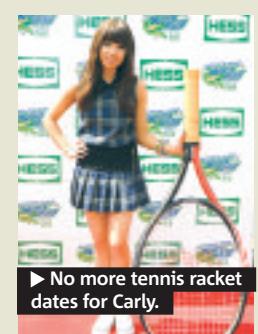
while Mayer seems to be moving on, Perry is reportedly not taking the split very well. "She's really upset about it," a source says. "She is making it seem like it wasn't serious with John, but she is hurt."

We are available for adoption!

Brad Pitt and **Angelina Jolie** squeezed in a little late-summer vacation time, taking four of their six kids to the coastal town of Le Touquet, France,

He got her number

Crafty pop star **Carly Rae Jepsen** has tracked down the last remaining human who hasn't heard "Call Me Maybe" and promptly started dating him. "He's a really great guy and really talented," Jepsen tells People of **Matthew Koma**, 25, a fellow singer-songwriter.



Prince Harry not quite done explaining

Buckingham Palace isn't amused by **Prince Harry's** recent nude photos, but that might be the least of his problems. Apparently, he was dating on-again, off-again girlfriend **Cressida Bonas** when he decided to play strip pool with a group of girls he met last week in a Las Vegas bar.



"Cressida saw a future with Harry, but then he went and embarrassed her like he did in Vegas," a source tells U.K. newspaper The Mirror. "He clearly isn't as serious about her as he had claimed, and it's highly embarrassing. He's ruined his chances now. She's humiliated."

How do you exact revenge against a guy whose naked photos are already all over the Internet? We're not sure, but we bet Cressida has some ideas.

over the weekend, according to People magazine. Pitt and Jolie treated daughters **Zahara**, **Shiloh** and **Vivienne** along with son **Knox** to pizza before letting them loose on a local toy store. "I didn't expect it. I didn't even recognize them. I said 'Bonjour' like I do to all my clients and then I saw Brad Pitt," an employee of Culture Kid tells the magazine.

Before they were famous vampires

Despite the mega-success of

the "Twilight" film franchise, **Kellan Lutz** kind of misses the good old days. "My favorite moments were during the first movie, before any of this craze happened. We were just ourselves, no one really knew who we were yet," Lutz tells Us Weekly. "We haven't changed per se, but we were able to get away with a lot more." Lutz says the series' popularity caught them all off guard. "It can be surreal sometimes. I don't know if we all knew what we were fully getting into on all fronts."



Can we get a ride, Beefy?

1. Sometimes, we truly love the Internet: **Beefy The Skateboarding Bulldog** visited Ripley's Believe It or Not Odditorium in New York on Monday.

2. **Star Jones** had a foolproof plan for looking cute in photos over the weekend.

3. **Bradley Cooper** and **Ben Barnes** hit up a screening of their latest, "The Words," in New York on Saturday.

4. **Natalie Portman** and her impossibly shiny hair attended the Nevada Women Vote 2012 Summit on Saturday.

5. **Leonardo DiCaprio** was spotted filming "The Wolf Of Wall Street" in Manhattan on Saturday.

6. **Snoop Lion** (no, we'll never get sick of calling him that) performed at the H2O music festival in Los Angeles on Saturday.

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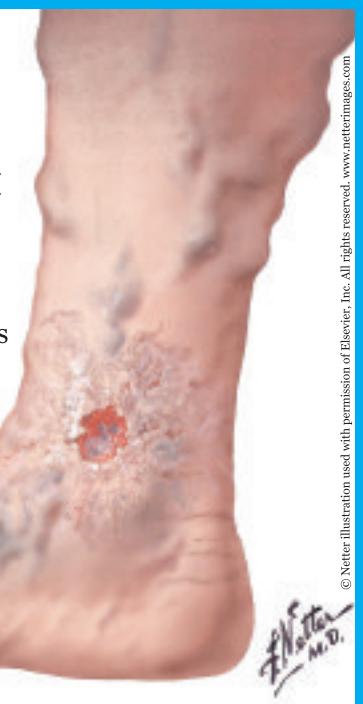


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TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2012

myentertainment

Opening up a dialogue of identity



► Knowlton

► The new documentary 'Somewhere Between' looks at Chinese adoptees searching for their birth parents

"Do you think America is really a melting pot — or a salad?"

When a teenaged boy asked director Linda Knowlton this thought-provoking question in response to a screening of her new documentary, "Somewhere Between," at this year's Sundance Film Festival, the filmmaker's interest peaked; the question signified the theme of her film precisely.

"Do all the pieces of our identities truly melt together, or are they just individual salad bar pieces that you mix in a bowl, but are still separate? I love that analogy," she tells Metro.

"Somewhere Between," in theaters now, explores the racial, gender and social issues of four teenage girls who were abandoned by their birth families in China and subsequently adopted in America. As Fang, Jenna, Ann and Haley search for their families and their own heritage, the film delivers a heartbreakingly revealing revelation to its audience: These abandonment issues are not at all uncommon.

China's One Child Policy in 1979 resulted in the rejection of thousands of children; today, roundly 80,000 Chinese girls have been adopted in the U.S. — and most never locate their original families.

As the documentary opens, Knowlton holds her own Chinese-adopted baby, Ruby, and asks: "How will I be able to help her build a strong sense of identity when there are so



► Haley Butler, pictured, is one of the subjects of "Somewhere Between," in theaters now.

LINDA GOLDSTEIN KNOWLTON

"There's something universal about people trying to find, define and understand themselves — because at different stages in our lives, we're all 'somewhere between' in some way."
KNOWLTON

many missing pieces from the early parts of her life?" Although a large number of adoptees and foster parents all over the world must address this same question, Knowlton says that her film still pertains to the general population who are not affiliated with adoption.

"There's something universal about people trying to find, define and understand themselves — because at different stages in our lives, we're all

'somewhere between' in some way," she says. "We're between being a child and an adult, we're between a teenager and an adult, between careers, between being dependent and independent." The list goes on.

Still, if the girls in "Somewhere Between" represent the issues of a much larger pool of identity-stricken teens, then perhaps there is hope. Despite their hurdles, each girl is now successfully pursuing her dreams — Fang, Jenna and Ann are continuing their education at such prestigious college institutions as Yale University and Mount Holyoke, while Haley won the title of Miss Outstanding Teen Tennessee. They prove that identity issues don't have to be an excuse to shy away from one's potential.

RAISHAD HARDNETT
letters@metro.us

nately up there. 9 p.m., Fox

TV watch list

'MasterChef'

REALITY. What's more intimidating than Joe Bastianich's withering one-liners? Preparing dishes for Michelin-starred guest judges Daniel Boulud, Alain Ducasse and Guy Savoy is defi-

p.m., ABC Family

'19 Kids and Counting'

REALITY. Inspired by the wedding of Anna's sister, the ladies of the Duggar clan discuss what they're looking for in a man — presumably, less than 18 siblings to host on Thanksgiving. Season premiere, 9 p.m., TLC AMBER RAY

City of lost manchildren

At the center of "One Last Thing Before I Go," the sixth novel from Jonathan Tropper, is a group of underemployed divorcees who spend their days in a poolside purgatory at The Versailles, a motel in upstate New York, doing little more than ogling girls from the local college.

And somehow, the various women in their lives (and, we predict, many of Tropper's readers) still love them.

"These are men who are feeling the clock ticking on their lives," the 42-year-old Tropper tells Metro. "[They're] looking back on the plans they made and retroactively seeing where they went wrong."

"And I don't think it's unique to men," he continues. "I think it's middle-aged angst."

The angst of "One Last Thing," however, doesn't take itself too seriously — imagine Jonathan Franzen with fart jokes. The men of The Versailles are, if not happy, content until various emergencies force them to decide how they want to spend the rest of their lives.

Tropper, whose screenplays have attracted the interest of manchild mascot Paul Rudd, spoke to Metro about his generation of late bloomers.

Do you think that men are starting to feel more comfortable talking about their angst?

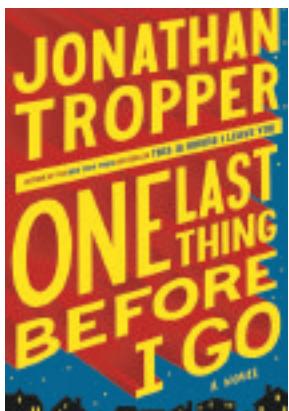
I do think that we've become a little more touchy-feely, but I think that men still feel less able to express that. I think the flip side of that is we live in a society now where people choose not to grow up and where men don't put away childish things. As a result, men tend to come of age later

hat and you went to work. And then we gradually started to keep dressing the same as when we were teenagers and we kept up our hobbies and we played with the same toys, and there were no more delineations of when you became an adult. There's part of you that never becomes one, and so all these rites of passage start happening later in life, and they kind of take them by surprise.

Has your screenwriting influenced your fiction writing?

I tend to overwrite my screenplays in the first few drafts because I'm used to the room and the breadth of a novel. People say that my books read like screenplays, but they don't. Not even a little. If they did, it would be much easier to adapt them.

REBECCA FINKEL
rebecca.finkel@metro.us



and very often reluctantly, and that leads to a whole other level of angst that our forebears probably didn't go through.

Decades ago you finished college or high school and you went to work and you became "a man." You put on a suit and

Q&A

Have you adapted many of your books to screenplays?

I just finished adapting my last book, "This Is Where I Leave You," for Warner Bros., and they're working on casting that now. I wrote a version of "The Book of Joe" that I'm doing in-

dependently with Ed Burns. And I'm raising some money to independently do a movie version of the book "Everything Changes" with Paul Rudd attached to produce and star, so I'm working on it, but they've all gone through the studio system and not been made because it's very hard for studios to get character-driven movies made. But I'm still trying.

Can you see any of your books as a TV series?

Ironically, the series I did [the upcoming HBO/Cinemax series "Banshee"] bears no resemblance to my books. It's a violent, comical, Cohen-brothery-type of show. I grew up on action movies and action heroes, and I wanted to take my shot at it in a more literary style.

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**Pucker up**

Azealia Banks is having quite the fashion moment. The 21-year-old rapper performed at a private party for Karl Lagerfeld, starred in Alexander Wang's new T campaign, and is now getting her very own lipstick. On Sept. 5, MAC will release Yung Rapunzel, a limited-edition shade in a gothic-like plum, named after Banks' alter ego. To celebrate, the "212" singer will take the stage at the beauty giant's Fashion's Night Out party.

Collaboration crazy

► Get excited for fall shopping ► We've got the latest crop of fashion partnerships to put on your radar

Bright eyes

Girls just want to have fun, right? To help us loosen up, Topshop has teamed with playful British-based designer Louise Gray for a makeup line that exudes the carefree spirit of her colorful, mix-and-match ensembles. "My collections have always been about pushing optimism, color and fun; I want the Topshop girl to experiment with the product, be daring, and enjoy it," says the designer. The range includes 12 products, such as chalky pastel shadows, bright lipsticks and electric blue liner. Have a blast priming.

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

**Kirna Zabete hits Target**

Love Kirna Zabete's fashion sensibility but can't afford the designer wears they house in their flagship store? Here's some good news: Founders Sarah Easley and Beth Buccini are the latest boutique owners participating in The Shops at Target, a program started by the retailer that offers shoppers limited-edition collections by fashion stars across the country. On Sept. 9, peruse their collection — along with NYC's Odin, San Francisco's The Curiosity Shoppe and Boston's Patch NYC — at your local Target store and at www.target.com.



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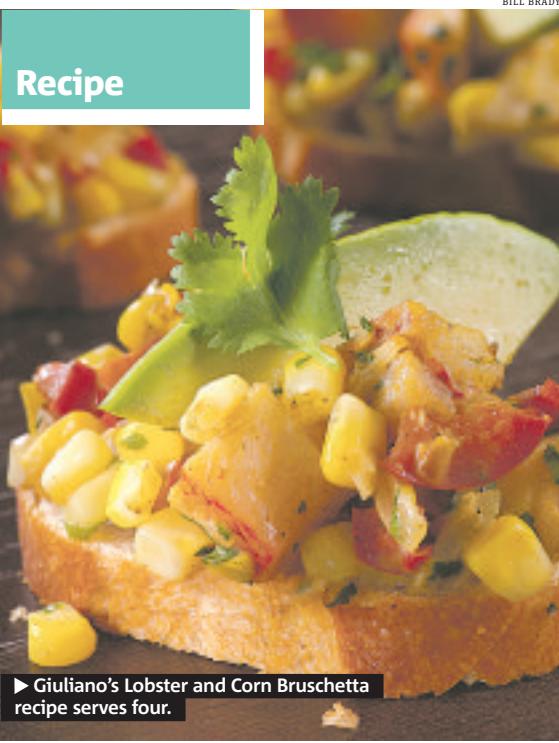
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Recipe



► Giuliano's Lobster and Corn Bruschetta
recipe serves four.

Recipe of the week: Lobster and Corn Bruschetta

Giving back
Author to donate part of proceeds

Skye is using her love for the veggie to give back: 75 percent of the proceeds from the sale of the book are donated to the Dougy Center, an organization dedicated to helping grieving children and families.

Many people savor the firm, sweet crunch of fresh corn on the cob as a complement to their summer barbecues or picnics — but corn ceviche? Yup, it exists. You'll find that and other creative dishes in Lisa Skye's new book, "I Love Corn."

"It's yellow, it's happy, it's great in the things I already knew it was great in like salads and salsas. But who knew there was corn ice cream?" says Skye about her motivation for writing the book.

To find these special dishes, Skye asked 50 renowned chefs, including bigwigs such as Daniel Bouloud and Martha Stewart, to provide their favorite ways to cook the star ingredient.

We say try one out at your next cookout — perhaps Choza Taqueria owner Dominic Giuliano's Lobster and Corn Bruschetta. Minds will be blown.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus additional for drizzling
 - 2 medium-size ears fresh corn, kernels removed (1½ cups)
 - 1 medium-size red pepper, seeded and diced
 - 2 shallots, minced
 - 1 tablespoon curry powder
 - ½ cup heavy cream
 - 2 tablespoons minced cilantro, plus for garnish
 - 2 tablespoons minced scallions, white and green
- BILL BRADY
- KILLIAN YOUNG
letters@metro.us

- parts (about 4 scallions)
- 1 (1½-pound) lobster, cooked, cleaned, and diced into ¼-inch pieces
- Salt and fresh black pepper
- 1 French baguette, cut into ½-inch slices
- ½ avocado, sliced very thinly

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Preheat the oven to 400°F.
- 2 Heat the olive oil in a large saute pan over medium heat. Add the corn, red pepper and shallots. Cook until the shallots begin to appear translucent, three to four minutes.
- 3 Whisk the curry powder and heavy cream in a small bowl, then add to the corn mixture. Continue to cook until the consistency of the cream has thickened, about one minute. Add the cilantro, scallions and lobster. Season with salt and pepper.
- 4 Cook 10 minutes on low heat.
- 5 Place baguette slices on a baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil and salt and pepper. Bake until slightly toasted, five to seven minutes.
- 6 Place a spoonful of lobster mixture over each of the toasted baguettes. Garnish with a small slice of avocado and a cilantro leaf.

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► Even if your child is young, asking the teacher for help is a good way to get ahead.

What a struggling student should do

"Let me know that they are struggling and ask for suggestions to improve their grade. You would be surprised how uncommon this is in elementary school." FARRELL

"The student has to meet with the teacher to talk about the frustrations he or she is encountering. More often than not, the problems the student is having in class with understanding a certain concept can be alleviated with some one-on-one instruction. We teachers can sometimes become so entrenched in one style of approaching a text, an event or a problem that we might forget about different learning styles or interpretations. When students share frustrations, it helps us fine-tune lessons and include more students in the process." KICZEK

"Ask for help from the teacher as soon as possible. The student should try to come to this meeting with a list of questions and their goals for the meeting, the grading period and the course. As a teacher, I would work out a plan with the student to reach these goals, and give them all of the time and resources available to me. Ideally, a student would schedule this meeting a few weeks into the grading period rather than the day before the grading period ends." BECK

What makes a student stand out

"What set apart my favorite students was their intense curiosity. They stayed late after class or after school asking questions. They read materials that were not assigned. They looked for connections between my class and other disciplines. Learning for them was not just about filling in bubbles on a test; I could sense the pleasure they got from encountering ideas and

emotions they had not known existed." KICZEK

"Students that are prepared for class each day with the required supplies, assigned work, relevant questions and a positive attitude." BECK

"I really notice when a student is organized."

FARRELL

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By the numbers

Scary stats for back-to-school

► 86 percent of American high school students say that some classmates are drugging, drinking and smoking during the school day

► Almost half of those surveyed know a student who sells drugs at their school.

► 52 percent of high school students say that there is a place on or near school grounds where students go to get high during the school day.

► 36 percent say it is easy for students to use drugs, drink or smoke during the school day without getting caught.

52%

of high school students say that there is a place on or near school grounds where students go to get high during the school day.

► About 50 percent of high school students say they know a student who sells drugs at their school.

► 75 percent of 12- to 17-year-olds say that seeing pictures of teens partying with alcohol or marijuana on Facebook, MySpace or another social networking site encourages other teens to want to engage in similar behavior.

Compared to teens who have not seen pictures on Facebook or another social networking site of kids getting drunk, passed out, or using drugs, teens who have seen such pictures are:

► Four times likelier to have used marijuana;

► More than three times likelier to have used alcohol; and

► Almost three times likelier to have used tobacco.

Source: The National Center of

Addiction and Substance Abuse

at Columbia University's 2012

Teen Survey

Give your kids a morning mind boost

Three out of five teachers say kids in their classrooms regularly come to school hungry, according to a new survey from Share Our Strength. Nine out of 10 teachers say breakfast is crucial to classroom success, with 95 percent saying it provides increased concentration.

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Letters**letters@metro.us****Social censoring: Wack or 'PC'?**

RE: "PC HAS PLACE IN POLITE SOCIETY" (METRO, AUG. 24-26) Perhaps the political climate in this country would improve if we add political party affiliation to the list of traits we are expected to treat in a politically correct manner.

SUSAN BELISLE, VIA E-MAIL

As I read Mr. Fox's e-mail, I was reminded of an old proverb: "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." It may well be that "PC" began with an attempt to be "polite," but it is an assault on free expression: One group of people dictates what is and what is not acceptable opinion. I have seen the marketplace of ideas increasingly dominated by these social engineers.

Increasingly, where freedom of expression is being reinterpreted, "You are free to say what you wish ... as long we like it, or agree with it, or ... are not offended by it" — as Mr. Fox would say, "As long as it is (or I feel it is) polite." PC is a road that leads to a tyrannical society where freedom of expression is controlled and suppressed.

GARY SHARPE, VIA E-MAIL**A country in need is the US indeed**

RE: "RESTORE THAT OL' AMERICAN PRIDE" (METRO, AUG. 24-26) I'm responding to Lisa Paparo's letter on entitlement. I didn't read John McLaughlin's original letter, but I'm struck by the irony of the title: "Done anything for your country late-

ly?" Entitlement may be an issue, though certainly not as large an issue as you seem to think; I don't have a problem with people who work multiple jobs to support themselves and their families feeling entitled to basic health care. My question, though, is what can you do for your country if not help your fellow countrymen who are in need?

CLIFF BARGAR, VIA E-MAIL**Lance was thrown under the bike?**

Has the vendetta that the French have had with Lance Armstrong finally been successful? In that the USADA agency chief, Travis Tygart, and a handful of doped-up cyclists have now slammed our cycling winner and hero

of the Olympics and seven Tour de France races with more doping charges? We should all know that the French hated the fact that neither them nor a European won their race seven years straight. The liberal French couldn't bust Lance when every test on him came back squeaky clean, after every won time trial, race, sprint and final for seven years. How many drug tests were given? When is enough, enough?

JOHN E. BEVAN, PHILADELPHIA**Until everyone's OK tasting the rainbow**

The so-called anti-gays seemed to have overlooked a historical fact: Gays have been butchered, beaten and bullied for many centuries. Now that we are fighting back, they consider themselves to be the victims. Well, we are going to continue fighting back until we have the same legal and civil rights that they do!

DICK ZIEGENFUSS, NYC**E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us**

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Horoscope

1 ♀ Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Don't allow any outside influences to cause you to be unduly rushed regarding tasks that are detailed and intricate. Haste will perpetrate serious errors.

2 ♂ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23. If you try to juggle accounts around in order to rob Peter to pay Paul, all you'll do is create even more havoc in your financial affairs.

3 ♂ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22. Your loved ones will follow the example you set when you deal with them. If you are cranky, short-tempered or impatient, it isn't likely that your family life will be pleasant.

4 ♀ Gemini May 21-June 20. Don't take something that you need repaired back to an establishment that gave you problems in the past. You'd better look for a more reliable place.

5 ♀ Cancer June 21-July 22. You should try not to be overly possessive of a person with whom you are emotionally involved. Unfortunately, the tighter you try to hold on to him or her, the faster she or he is apt to run.

6 ♀ Leo July 23-Aug. 22. An outsider should not be allowed to try to help resolve a disagreement between you and your special someone. If you think things are heated now, outside intervention would only pour more gasoline on the fire.

7 ♀ Pisces Feb. 20-March 20. It's never

a good idea to butt into a testy situation that doesn't directly concern you. You won't derive any benefits from getting in the middle of someone else's mess.

8 ♀ Taurus April 20-May 20. Make sure that someone whose cooperation is essential to you is handled with the utmost diplomacy so that he or she doesn't become an adversary instead of an ally.

9 ♀ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21. If you have to deal with a difficult person, it might be hard to keep your anger in check. It would be best to smolder in silence.

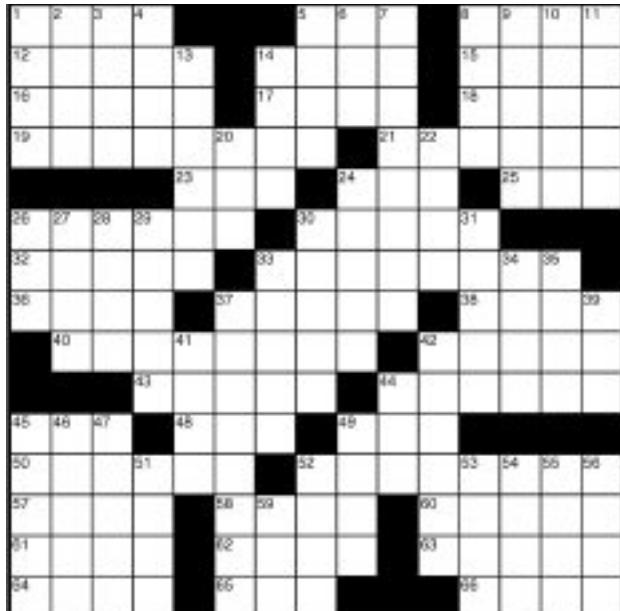
10 ♀ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19. Financial arrangements with friends could cause problems. Should a disagreement arise over something material, suffer the loss rather than jeopardize the relationship.

11 ♀ Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 19. Sometimes there is a fine line between being assertive and being just plain aggressive. If you're not considerate, you might have trouble distinguishing between the two.

12 ♀ Bernice Bede Osol.

Across

- 1 Wild guess
- 5 Broken-down horse
- 8 — & the Gang
- 12 Org. cousin
- 14 Mantra chanter
- 15 Capable of (2 wds.)
- 16 Hidden snag
- 17 Makes choices
- 18 Hard drive contents
- 19 1883 eruption site
- 21 Injured by a bear
- 23 Woolen cap
- 24 Lot of bills
- 25 Former yrs.
- 26 Move out
- 30 Cancels
- 32 Stand-in
- 33 Daniel Boone's hat
- 36 Iceboat feature
- 37 Sheepfolds
- 38 Cow-headed goddess
- 40 Was forgotten (2 wds.)
- 42 Davis of "The Fly"
- 43 Herb and guru
- 44 Calgary Stampede, et al.
- 45 Give alms
- 48 Motel of yore
- 49 Zurich peak
- 50 Capri's Blue —
- 52 Most sentimental
- 57 — majeste
- 58 Zorro's disguise
- 60 Make glad
- 61 Rightmost column
- 62 Joule fractions
- 63 Spy mission
- 64 Into the sunset
- 65 Mosquito stopper
- 66 Large herring
- 67 Down
- 1 Potato buy
- 2 Bygone despot
- 3 Movie pooch



- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Spring beer | 24 Beau | 42 Burrowing rodent |
| 5 Vineyard valley | 26 Corp. execs | 44 "Kidnapped" |
| 6 Qty. | 27 Graceful steed | monogram |
| 7 Fuel suppliers (2 wds.) | 28 Roll of stamps | 45 Softly lit |
| 8 Spiral-horned antelope | 29 Wheel rods | 46 Peace goddess |
| 9 Aussie minerals | 30 Ayes and nays | 47 Gives medicine |
| 10 Web-footed mammal | 31 Tackled moguls | 49 Puffin cousins |
| 11 Rigs, as dice | 33 Witch's group | 51 — pilot |
| 13 Garrulous | 34 Palm reader's opener (2 wds.) | 52 High NCO ranking |
| 14 Come into view | 35 El — (ocean current) | 53 Cousteau's islands |
| 20 — kwon do | 37 Surname | 54 Apiece |
| 22 Mixes in | 39 Eur. airline | 56 Look after |
| | 41 Postpone action | 59 "We — not amused" |

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SUDOKU LEVEL: EASY

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8	6	1		3	9	
2	1				3	
					2	6
4					9	5
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SUDOKU LEVEL: HARD**Solution to yesterday's crossword**

R	A	I	Z	E	D	S	W	A	T	O	C	A	T	S
O	P	E	M	A	L	I	N	H	E	R	O			
M	A	R	I	N	U	L	A	G	A	R				
P	R	O	C	U	R	E	D	S	T	R	I	D		
C	U	R	E	D	B	A	D	E	R	A	S	E	R	
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S	E	A	R	O	D	L	A	Z	A					

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The last stretch of summer

More American travelers will take to the road this Labor Day weekend as consumer confidence remains intact despite the sluggish economy and high gasoline prices, travel group AAA said last week.

AAA expects 33 million Americans will either drive or fly over the holiday weekend. This is the largest number of travelers since 2008 and up 2.9 percent from a year earlier.

About 28.2 million motorists will drive to their destinations, a 3.1 percent increase from last year's levels. And 2.55 million will fly, up 3.7 percent from a year earlier, AAA added.

"In the absence of strong economic growth ... it is an encouraging sign that Americans

33M The number of Americans expected to either drive or fly over the upcoming holiday weekend

continue to prioritize travel," Bill Sutherland, vice president of AAA Travel Services said.

The forecast, based on a survey of 50,000 U.S. households, found that 66 percent of respondents do not expect their current financial situation to have a negative bearing on their Labor Day weekend plans.

Motorists continue to take a hit at the pump. Gasoline sold for an average \$3.71 a gallon last week, 4 percent higher than a year ago. **REUTERS**



► Boston as a vacation destination? Why not? This is how they soak up the sun there.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Where are we going?

Tours.com's Travel-Intel notes that off-season summer spots such as New Orleans, Atlanta and Boston

are on vacationers' lists for where to spend leisure time over Labor Day. Reviewing a Hotwire survey taken this month, Travel-Intel found 10 hot spots that made the list for places to spend the last weekend of

summer and hot may be the operative theme with Las Vegas and Orlando taking prominent placements. But off-season values were high on everyone's list this season for Labor Day vacations.

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Rendezvous for two

Have you ever been on vacation, ready to sidle up to your plus-one in the pool, tropical drink in hand, only to duck when a kid cannonballs over you?

That sort of romantic-mood spoiling is nonexistent at

Rendezvous (www.theromanticholiday.com), a couples-only resort in St. Lucia.

The phrase "couples-only" may conjure images of awkward double dinner dates with strangers, but at Rendezvous, it simply means rose petals scattered underneath massage tables and employees scuttling around the seven-acre grounds clutching champagne glasses

and chocolates. Seriously, check out their domain name. THE romantic holiday!

There's one catch though: All beaches are public in St. Lucia, allowing locals to enjoy at their leisure. Although you need a room to eat at Rendezvous, prepare to share the sand with local families trickling through. Their laid-back attitudes may add to your

vacation, like an encouraging "no worries" as you fumble to steer your kayak through the surf.

If swinging in a private hammock overlooking the ocean with a St. Lucian rum drink sounds like the way to render your romance, then read on.

ALISON BOWEN
alison.bowen@metro.us

Rekindle romance

► Rendezvous encourages recovering from city stress by focusing on nothing but emerald water and waves — whether dining seaside or sitting in a hot tub and sneaking a glance at the sunset through palm leaves. Extras to enhance the mood include ordering flowers to the room or arranging a candlelit dinner on the beach with a personal waiter. And let the hotel know of any special dates — they're quick to make your orange juice a mimosa by adding champagne at breakfast for occasions like birthdays or anniversaries. St. Lucia is a favorite for Brits, whose country fought for ownership with the French, and that history is evident in baked beans and stewed tomatoes readily available at breakfast next to local favorites like cocoa tea, stringy-but-sweet sour sop fruit and wax apple juice.

Three's company

Explore the island

If you like an off-resort adventure, consider a visit to En Bas Saut. This is not for the faint of heart, nor the impatient. It's a two-hour drive from Rendezvous, up twisty curves (bring the Dramamine), past houses nestled into cliffs and over a dirt, rock-studded road. Smith Philip, a friendly local guide who greets you with a walking stick (he's pictured here) will distract you from the 1,000 feet down into the rainforest by

telling you the history of St. Lucia. Once you're all the way down, relax and take a dip in the waterfall before heading back up — because you do have to climb back up. Allow Philip to tell you his story: His guiding business is part of an inspiring building-back-up story.

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One is fun

Solo isn't short for 'so lonely'

For an invigorating individual getaway, consider **The BodyHoliday** (www.thebodyholiday.com), which has rooms for couples but also caters heavily to singles needing a life overhaul or just a simple trip to recharge. The entire month of September is even devoted to singles — in honor of National Singles Month, the resort is offering September Solos from Sept. 2 to Sept. 30, starting at \$450 per person per night.

Maybe you'll even make some new friends — the resort offers group sunset cruises and concerts, and at every dining venue are communal tables where you can pull up a chair for conversation. The resort purposely has an open-air Miami feel to touch every part of the resort, whether you're having breakfast or relaxing in the infinity pool.

The hotel's promise to guests? "Give us your body for a week, and we'll give you back your mind." Hotel staff will work with you ahead of time to plot out plans, or you can pluck activities out of the daily schedule.

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Report: Mets manager Collins' job safe

The Mets believe they still have their man to run the ballclub on the field. Fans can make up their own mind.

The New York Post reported yesterday that Mets manager Terry Collins will not be fired at the end of the season, according to a team source. The chances were categorized as being "no chance."

•469 Terry Collins has a winning percentage of .469 in his two seasons with the Mets. His career winning percentage is .497.

Despite the team's struggles, the Mets have always expressed confidence in Collins



GETTY IMAGES

managing the younger players on the team. His contract runs through the 2013 season, but he hasn't been extended yet.

The Mets are 59-69 heading into today's game against Philadelphia, who are now two games up on the Mets after trailing them most of the season. The team is just 13-29 since the All-Star break and

has had three losing streaks of six games since July 8.

General manager Sandy Alderson was also asked at an event for season ticket-holders on Sunday about the statuses of David Wright and R.A. Dickey, both free agents after next season, and he said he expects both to be back "long term." ● METRO

3



TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

► "It was just a good feeling and excitement to be back to a city that obviously brought me so much last year," Stosur said.

On the down low

► Defending champ flying way under the radar in Flushing ► Stosur wins in straight sets ► Aussie says she is trying not to think about repeating

Quick, name three women you think can win the U.S. Open.

Serena Williams? Maria Sharapova? Kim Clijsters?

All good and safe bets. But what about Samantha Stosur?

The 28-year-old Australian is defending champion — but hardly anyone is talking about her among the favorites to win.

"It's a new year, a new tournament," Stosur, who beat Williams in last year's final, said after routing Petra Martic of Croatia, 6-1, 6-1, in the first match Monday.

"Of course, you want to [repeat], but at the end of the day

Struggles

Stosur struggled since her win last year in Flushing. The Australian native was especially let down by a first-round exit at her home major in January.

► "For sure, you know, the Aussie Open I did freeze and it did kind of handcuff me," she said. "Since then I haven't fallen into that trap again, so that's a positive sign."

you can't think that. You know, that's the goal."

Stosur, the No. 7 seed, hardly broke a sweat in taking the first 19 points of the match against Martic, a 23-year-old ranked No. 64.

With Stosur up 4-0, 40-0 in the first set, it appeared possible she might pull off just the third golden set — where the opponent doesn't win a single point — in the history of the Open Era.

"It did pop into my head for a split second," Stosur said. "Then I hit a double fault and it was erased and I was quickly on

with the next point."

With her ability to kick her serve and generate spin off her forehand, Stosur's game is suited to the courts at the Open.

It probably helps Stosur that she's flying under the radar again this year. Top seed Victoria Azarenka could await in the quarterfinals.

Until then, Williams, Sharapova and Clijsters will grab most of the headlines on the women's side. And that's just fine with Stosur.

● ADAM ZAGORIA
sports@metro.us

After a short rain delay, defending London Olympics gold medalist Andy Murray got off on the right foot in the U.S. Open.

Murray defeated Alex Bogomolov Jr., 6-2, 6-4, 6-1. Bogomolov is the No. 73 player in the world.

Murray is coming off his biggest win as a pro in taking the title over Roger Federer on the courts of Wimbledon during the Olympics. But the Scotsman has yet to win a major title. With Rafael Nadal sitting this one out, he's one of the favorites. ● METRO

In the news

Patriots extend TE Hernandez for five years

The Jets' main rivals have now locked up both of their weapons at tight end this offseason. Aaron Hernandez has now inked a five-year extension a few months after Rob Gronkowski was signed to a six-year extension. The deal for Hernandez is worth \$40 million with a \$12.5 million signing bonus. The former Florida player had seven touchdowns in 2011. ● METRO

In the news



Papi DL bound
One game back might have to be good enough for the Red Sox.

David Ortiz, who was activated from the disabled list last Friday and went 2-for-4 in his return, will be placed back on the 15-day DL with the same nagging injury in his right Achilles' heel.

Ortiz says he will receive an injection in the foot and hopes to return before the season ends.

Slimmed-down Howard standing tall at right tackle

► New right tackle acquires himself well in place of Wayne Hunter ► He has Rex Ryan, his girlfriend to thank ► Lost 30 pounds since June OTAs

In his first game as the Jets' starting right tackle, Austin Howard stood tall against the Panthers in a 17-12 preseason loss at MetLife Stadium, earning rave reviews from his teammates and looking every bit the part of a starter.

But while Howard did stand tall, he didn't stand wide.

The 6-foot-7 Howard tipped the scales at 331 pounds last Wednesday, nearly 30 pounds less than during June's organized team activities when he was just shy of 360 pounds. He earned criticism from head coach Rex Ryan for his weight gain, leading the third-year player to do everything in his power to shed the weight. Howard told Metro he weighed 345 pounds two years ago as a



► Howard

JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

Pink slip time

Yesterday was the first day of cuts in the NFL as teams got down to 75 players.

► There weren't any real surprises on the Jets' cut list, though Josh Baker was waived/injured and kicker Josh Brown was released.

rookie in Philadelphia, and then was up to 352 pounds last year with the Ravens. The steady weight gain continued, and Howard's practice form with the Jets was lackluster.

Ryan's challenge resulted in a more agile right tackle who won the job over last year's

starter Wayne Hunter. As his weight went down, his reputation on the Jets began to grow.

He attended workouts with his girlfriend and completely changed his lifestyle.

"I started going to different types of classes with her at the gym and started mountain biking as well," Howard said. "I just bought a mountain bike, actually. So it's been a change, a different approach to my workouts as well."

"I am eating four to five small meals a day now, just making healthier choices, better choices. I bought a juicer too and I'm loving that," Howard said with a laugh.

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

► With a broken foot, Nicks has yet to play this preseason.

Nicks to see playing time Wednesday

While Giants head coach Tom Coughlin rarely plays starters more than a series in the final preseason game, there's one starter who's been pining to get some extended work — wideout Hakeem Nicks.

The fourth-year veteran, who is working back from a broken foot after being cleared to practice full-speed just last week, said he'd like to break a sweat Wednesday

against the Patriots.

"In my first initial week back at practice, [my thinking] was just, 'Get your feet back up under you,'" Nicks said. "But [Sunday], I felt like I opened it up a little bit. I was sprinting to the end zone, running my routes full speed, [doing] all the right things, [including] doing the right releases and stuff like that."

Coughlin was his usual covert self when asked if Nicks will play tomorrow.

"We'll see," said Coughlin. "As of right now, yes [some starters will play]."

TONY WILLIAMS



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Yanks' Feliciano to be available soon

Manager Joe Girardi often talks about the advantages of having two left-handed relievers in the bullpen with Clay Rapada and Boone Logan.

If there are not any snags in the continuation of his rehab process, Pedro Feliciano could be the third.

Feliciano's recovery took the next step when he was promoted to Double-A Trenton yesterday. So far, Feliciano has made four appearances in the Gulf Coast League and one in the Florida State League.

"I think [with] Pedro, it probably depends on how he's doing," Girardi said. "If he can help us, I'm sure we'll bring Pedro Feliciano up. [The front office] might not feel he's quite ready yet, but that's a decision that they'll have to make and see because we won't get a chance to see."

Feliciano has yet to appear in a major game for the Yankees, who signed him to a two-year deal following eight years with the Mets. Feliciano



► Feliciano hasn't pitched in a major league game in two years.

ON TV TONIGHT

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led the National League with 86, 88 and 92 appearances in his final three seasons as a Met and the Yankees blamed the torn capsule and rotator cuff in his left shoulder on how he was used.

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266 Pedro Feliciano pitched in 266 total games from 2008-2010 and led the league in appearances each of those seasons.

3.60 Feliciano has an ERA of 3.60 in his five minor league rehab appearances this season. He has six strikeouts in five innings.

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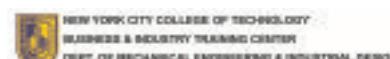
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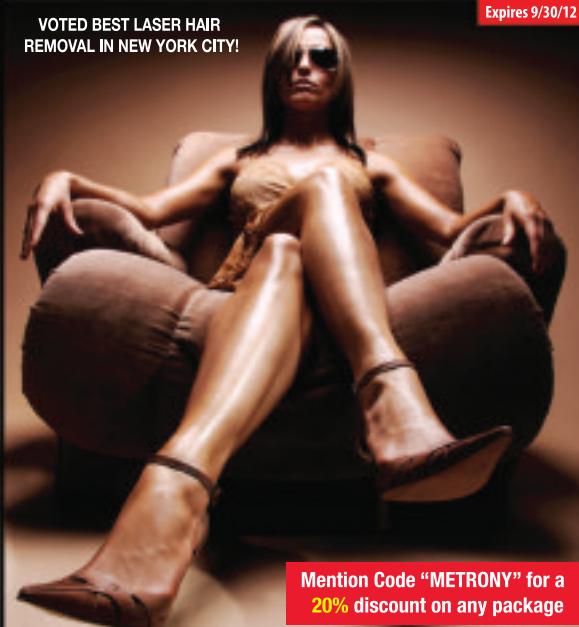
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